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SOURCE Pravda.

BAYBAKOV REPORTS ON STATUS OF USSR PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

N. Baybakov, Minister of the Petroleum Industry, USSR, reports that enterprises of the petroleum industry completed the Five-Year Plan for petroleum extraction on 10 December. The Bashneft', Krasnodarneft', Turkmenneft' and Grozneft' Associations were among those enterprises which attained this success.

Oil fields and refineries in Krasnodar Kray, Groznyy, and the Ukraine, which were destroyed during the war, have been completely restored.

During the postwar Five-Year Plan, geological surveying has increased several times its former volume and the volume of exploratory drilling is five times as great as it was. This has led to the creation of new petroleum regions in a number of republics and oblasts where petroleum extraction was in general not carried on before the war.

Deep exploratory drilling has received particular attention in the post-war Five-Year Plan. Now, there is hardly an oblast in the country where deep drilling in search of petroleum is not carried on.

Turbodrilling, developed by Soviet engineers, has been particularly effective in the eastern regions which are characterized by hard rock.

Petroleum workers have developed and are using extensively a new method of exploiting oil fields, a method of maintaining stratum pressure, which ensures the most complete extraction of petroleum from the deposit and preserves the gusher stage of the oil well as long as the deposit is being worked.

Secondary methods are being extensively adopted to extract petroleum from worn-out strata in old oil fields of the Azneft', Grozneft', and Krasnodarneft' Associations. During the postwar Five-Year Plan, petroleum workers of Azerbaydzhani have extensively re-equipped oil fields and they are extracting petroleum from rich deposits along the coastal area of the Caspian Sea using modern engineering methods.

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The output of gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel, and other petroleum products has greatly increased during the postwar Five-Year Plan. A number of installations in petroleum refineries have been remodeled assuring a greater output and higher quality of petroleum products.

The USSR machine-building industry has created highly productive machines and aggregates for drilling oil wells and for extracting petroleum during the postwar Five-Year Plan and this has been an important factor in the petroleum industry's fulfillment of the plan ahead of schedule.

During the postwar Five-Year Plan, workers in the petroleum industry have restored petroleum fields and refineries which were destroyed during the war, organized new fields, built new plants, laid new pipelines, and built new houses for petroleum workers.

A group of particularly distinguished petroleum workers have been awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labor and more than 200 have become Laureates of Stalin prizes for their inventions and introduction of modern engineering methods into the petroleum industry.

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